

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A pulverulent phytosterol formulation comprising at least one phytosterol having a mean particle size of from ~~0.01 to 100 μ m~~ 0.05 to 1, wherein at least one phytosterol is present in partially amorphous form.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The phytosterol formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~at least one phytosterol is present in partially amorphous form~~ the degree of crystallinity of the phytosterol is in the range from 30 to 80% as determined by X-ray diffraction measurements.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The phytosterol formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phytosterol is embedded in a protective colloid matrix.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The phytosterol formulation as claimed in claim 1, comprising from 0.1 to 80% by weight of one or more phytosterols, with the percentages by weight being based on the dry matter of the powder.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The phytosterol formulation as claimed in claim 4 comprising from 5 to 70% by weight of one or more protective colloids.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The phytosterol formulation as claimed in claim 1, additionally comprising from 0.1 to 70% by weight of one or more plasticizers.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The phytosterol formulation as claimed in claim 1, additionally comprising from 0.01 to 70% by weight of one or more emulsifiers.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The phytosterol formulation as claimed in claim 1, additionally comprising from 0.01 to 50% by weight of one or more antioxidants and/or preservatives.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The phytosterol formulation as claimed in claim 1, which is water-dispersible.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A process for producing a pulverulent phytosterol formulation defined as claimed in claim 1, which comprises:

- a₁) dissolving one or more phytosterols in a water-miscible organic solvent or in a mixture of water and a water-miscible organic solvent, or
 - a₂) dissolving one or more phytosterols in a water-immiscible organic solvent;
- and
- b) mixing the solution obtained as in a₁) or a₂) with an aqueous molecular dispersion or colloidal dispersion of a protective colloid, the hydrophobic phase of the phytosterol being formed as a dispersed phase, and
 - c) to produce a dry powder, freeing the resulting dispersion from the solvent and the water and drying it in the presence or absence of a coating material.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein

- a) one or more phytosterols is/are dissolved in a water-miscible organic solvent, or a mixture of water and a water-miscible organic solvent, at temperatures in the range from 50°C to 240°C;
- b) the resultant solution is mixed with an aqueous molecular dispersion or colloidal dispersion of a protective colloid selected from the group consisting of pectin, casein, caseinate, gum arabic, modified starch and fish gelatin, a mixture temperature of from about 35°C to 80°C being established; and
- c) the resultant dispersion is converted into a dry powder.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a pulverulent phytosterol formulation defined as claimed in claim 1, which comprises grinding at least one phytosterol in an aqueous medium in the presence of a protective colloid and drying the resultant phytosterol suspension to produce a dry powder, wherein the phytosterol suspension, after the grinding, is heated to a sufficiently high temperature to cause complete or partial melting of the phytosterols and this melt is cooled again before being converted into a dry powder.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the phytosterol suspension, after the grinding, is kept at a temperature of from 150 to 200°C for a period of from 0.05 to 200 seconds and is cooled to a temperature of from 20 to 80°C before conversion into a dry powder.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Original): A food supplement, animal feed, food or pharmaceutical or cosmetic preparation comprising a phytosterol formulation defined as claimed in claim 1.